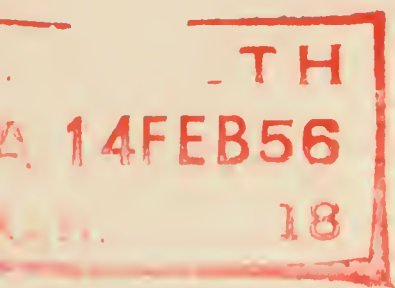


Library



NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1954
---oOo---



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29909569>

H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TELEPHONE: NEWTON ABBOT 715/6.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1954.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st. December, 1954.

One feature of the report is that the Death Rate which was relatively high in 1953 is once again below the National level after correction has been made to allow for the fact that many more elderly people live in this part of the country than are found in the Industrialised areas. The rise in the 1953 Death Rate was due, at least in part, to the fact that all persons who died at the Wolborough Section of the Newton Abbot Hospital were counted as Newton Abbot residents irrespective of their normal place of residence. This anomaly has now been corrected.

Ninety-five cases of Whooping Cough were reported during the year as opposed to twenty-eight cases in the previous year. The incidence of Measles was very low as is usual in alternate years. Only one case of Acute Poliomyelitis - non-paralytic - occurred in this Urban District during 1954.

Twenty-four cases of tuberculosis were notified in the year, a rise of two over the previous year. I think that this rise is due almost entirely to the continuing improvement in the diagnosis of early cases and we can reasonably expect the notification of cases of tuberculosis to decrease within the next few years.

The need for continuing the Immunisation campaign against Diphtheria continues even though it is many years since a case of this disease was notified in the District. One case of cutaneous diphtheria, a very rare condition, did occur in an elderly person in Newton Abbot. This case responded well to treatment, but will serve to remind parents that the germ of

Diphtheria is still present and that precautions are still necessary.

During the year a large amount of time was devoted to visiting older people in the area who for some reason or other are not receiving adequate care and attention. The problem of the aged people becomes more acute as each year passes by, and, the difficulty of obtaining accommodation, either in the County Council's homes for such persons or even worse in the Geriatric Section of Hospitals, becomes desperate especially during the months of April, May and June.

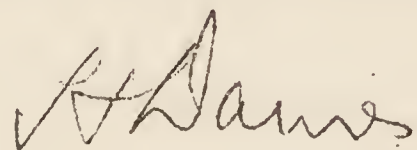
One of the worst problems is due to the Administrative difficulties caused by there being two separate authorities dealing with those who need Hospital attention and those for whom no nursing is required. Cases arise from time to time of persons who have been kept at their homes and have, with periodic visits from the District Nurse, just managed to carry on. When the point arises where it is no longer possible for the person to stay in his home, a Hospital bed has to be found. The County Council's homes do not reckon to and are not staffed for the care of such persons. The Hospitals have a long waiting list of persons who would benefit from the facilities that only a Hospital can offer and rightly feel that a Hospital bed is being wasted by admitting such a patient for an indefinite period.

The logical solution to this problem would be for the duties of caring for the aged persons to be in the hands of one authority. A body such as this should be able to co-ordinate the work of the various organisations involved. First by increasing the scope of the help which can be provided in the patients own home, or perhaps by the organisation of a 'Boarding out' Service with private families as is done successfully in Exeter. The other major improvement which a unified authority could effect would be in the allocation of beds for the various types of patients and provision could also be made for those 'intermediate' cases who need only minimal Hospital treatment.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,153
Population Mid 1954	17,110
Population 1951 Census	16,393
Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1954	137,062
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1954	138,166
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1954	548

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	101	114	215
Illegitimate	5	5	10
	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 119	<hr/> 225

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	13.15
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	13.54
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	13.08
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.91
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	15.2

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	0.18
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	13.16
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales	23.4

DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 69.22 years, as against 69.40 years for 1953. The average age of all male deaths was 66.29 years and for female deaths 72.54 years.

Male.	Female.	Total.
119	105	224

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	13.09
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	10.34
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.18
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	10.49
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	11.3

Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births	22.22
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	25.48
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	25.5

Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	4	-	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births	17.78
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	16.79
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	17.7

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths occurred during the past year within this Urban District. The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon is 0.59, four cases having occurred within the County during 1954.

AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under four weeks	4	-
Infants under one year	-	1
1 -	1	-
5 -	-	-
15 -	-	1
25 -	2	3
45 -	34	14
65 -	37	31
75 and over	41	55
	<hr/> 119 <hr/>	<hr/> 105 <hr/>

Total: 224.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	119	105
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
do. other	1	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
carried forward	4	1

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male.	Female.
brought forward	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	20
Coronary disease, angina	25	10
Hypertension with heart disease	4	6
Other heart disease	9	18
Other circulatory disease	4	6
Pneumonia	4	3
Bronchitis	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	13
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	3	-
Suicide	-	1
	<hr/> 119 <hr/>	<hr/> 105 <hr/>

Total: 224.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	3	4
Whooping Cough	40	55	95
Measles	3	5	8
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Acute Pneumonia	6	-	6
Erysipelas	1	-	1
	<u>51</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>115</u>

Total: 115.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.

CASES.

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Infants under one year		-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	5	-	1
25	-	3	2	-	-
35	-	-	3	1	-
45	-	4	1	-	-
55	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over		1	-	-	-
		<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Total: 24.

TUBERCULOSIS. (continued)

Of the twenty-four cases notified during 1954 three, two males and one female - all pulmonary - were in respect of residents at the Polish Hostel, Stover.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 was necessary in one case during 1954.

NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1 9 5 4

STAFF.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

C. E. Pethick, F.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector

F. B. Elliott, M.S.I.A.,

Clerk

G. J. Ingram.

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

...the ...

3

1. 2. 3.

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

100

10

1911

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

DRAINAGE:

The supervision of drainage work as compared with last year, details being as follows :-

Number of premises visited	130
Number of tests applied	184
Number of visits made	274

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

Changes in the occupation of factories and workshops in the district have resulted in 7 premises being deleted and 10 added to the register, the number contained in the register being 47.

The details in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service being as follows :-

1. <u>Inspections</u>	No. on register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	16	28	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	28	48	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	3	2	-	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (cont'd).

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Insp.	Ref. by H.M. Insp.	Prose- cution
<u>No. of cases in which defects were found :-</u>					
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	2	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	2	✓
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	-	-	-	2	-

FOOD INSPECTION:

Meat: Comment under this heading is bound to refer to the decontrol of meat rationing which took effect from 1st July, 1954 and which marks an important point in the activities of the Council.

As soon as it was known that meat trading was to be returned to private hands again, meetings took place with representatives of the meat trade, the farmers, and adjoining local authorities.

Considerable discussion took place at these various meetings but little direct progress was made.

Eventually towards the end of April a meeting took place between representatives of this Council, the Butchers Association, and the National Farmers Union at which it was stated that a Company had been formed in this area for the purpose of marketing livestock on a deadweight basis with a request that the Company lease the Abattoir from the Council.

1000
1800

3

1000
1800

1000
1800

FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd).

After weighing all the pros and cons the Council decided to provide all organisations and individuals with equal opportunity to use the facilities at the Abattoir, such facilities to include the service of slaughtermen employed by the Council.

I then drew up scales of charges within higher and lower limits and the scale finally adopted has proved to be reasonable in the eyes of the meat trade and satisfactory to the Council.

The Abattoir was enlarged and reconstructed in 1939/40 so that facilities are not comparable with those previously used by the meat trade and the pattern of slaughtering requirements has changed completely from the pre-war pattern, inasmuch as a considerable amount of slaughtering is carried out for 'export' to London in addition to the requirements of the wholesale trade supplying this district and the surrounding area. It should be pointed out that without this business the Abattoir could not be operated on an economic basis to meet the requirements of local butchers only.

The results so far have given satisfaction on two points, that the administrative arrangements involved from scratch have resulted in the smooth operation of the Abattoir and that the foresight of the Council in pressing that the alterations and additions to the Abattoir should not be shelved at the outbreak of war have provided an undertaking which is an asset able to contribute to the relief of rates.

From the inspection point of view the increase in animals slaughtered has meant more time being spent on inspection of meat but the standard of 100% inspection of carcasses has been maintained involving 848 visits.

The number of animals killed this year increased by more than 50% over the 1953 figures compared with the corresponding period of 1953, for the period during which the Council has been operating the Abattoir the increase is approximately 90%.

Details of the animals slaughtered and the results of inspection are shown in the following table :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Bullocks	2,403	2,665	2,721	2,933	3,032	2,545
Calves	1,922	2,383	2,961	2,487	2,132	7,392
Sheep	10,587	11,624	9,565	9,868	10,486	12,261
Pigs	329	394	876	715	1,579	4,210

FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd).

	CATTLE (excluding Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
NUMBER KILLED	1,794	751	7,392	12,261	4,210
NUMBER INSPECTED	1,794	752	7,398	12,273	4,214
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcasses condemned	6	9	39	24	15
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	450	298	76	824	305
% of animals ins- pected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	25.5%	40.8%	1.6%	6.9%	7.6%
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcasses condemned	7	12	13	-	15
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	89	121	-	-	214
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	5.4%	17.7%	0.02%	0	5.4%

Ice Cream. There has been no change in the number of producers of ice cream in the urban district.

Regular samples were taken from these producers at the factories and also periodical samples of ice cream retailed in the town but produced elsewhere.

10 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination with the following results :-

Grade 1 - 6 samples,
Grade 2 - 3 samples,
Grade 3 - 1 sample,
Grade 4 - Nil.

FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd).

Ice Cream (cont'd).

Comparison with previous years is shown by the following table :-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Grade 1	20%	42.5%	63.2%	57%	57.6%	60%
Grade 2	30%	30%	13.2%	14.3%	42.4%	30%
Grade 3	15%	22.5%	5.2%	21.4%	Nil	10%
Grade 4	35%	.5%	18.4%	7.1%	Nil	Nil

General. Periodical visits have been made, 212 in all, to premises where food is handled, and generally speaking conditions were again found to be good. Cases occur where conditions out of sight of the public require attention but the weight of public opinion could do much to prevent unhygienic practices by food handlers which are accepted without protest.

Unsound Food. During the course of the year, the following foodstuffs have been found to be unfit for human consumption :-

35	Bullock carcasses and offals,
53	Calf carcasses and offals,
24	Sheep carcasses and offals,
30	Pig carcasses and offals,
128	Bovine Heads,
208	Pig Heads,
1	Sheep's Head,
2,479	Organs and parts,
2,451	lbs. Beef,
70	lbs. Mutton,
165	lbs. Pork,
90	lbs. Veal,
122	lbs. Ham and Ox Tongue,
200	tins Meat,
154	tins Peas,
68	tins Beans,
61	tins Fish,
33	tins Soup,
72	tins Tomatoes,
122	tins Milk,
1,112	tins Fruit,
25	tins Soup,
65	lbs. Pork Sausages,
9	lbs. Beef Sausages,
12	lbs. Pork Chipolatas,
50	lbs. Gammon,
6	lbs. Pigs Tongue,
19	lbs. Dried Apricots,

FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd).

Unsound Food (cont'd).

7 lbs. Seedless Raisins,
44 lbs. Kippers,
36 tins Jam,
6 tins Fruit Salad,
5 tins Vegetables,
2 tins Macaroni,
2 tins Syrup,
2 tins Tomato Juice,
3 tins Potatoes,
9 tins Cream,
4 tins Beetroot,
2 tins Meat Pudding,
2 tins Carrots,
1 tin Spaghetti,
1 tin Meat Paste,
1 tin Mixed Vegetables,
1 tin Creamed Rice,
9 jars Onions,
1 jar Pickle,
1 jar Honey,
1 jar Cabbage,
1 jar Marmite,
2 bottles Coffee,
59 packets Cheese Spread,
2 packets Sponge Mixture,
2 packets Swiss Roll Powder.

HOUSING:

Local authorities were urged by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to take up again the campaign for dealing with sub-standard houses which was interrupted during the war and before the end of the year work was commenced on a survey of such properties in the town.

The task of reviewing housing applications was delegated to the Tenants Selection Sub-Committee who tackled the job in a spirit of realism. This resulted in a drastic pruning of the list by eliminating those applicants who desired a council house rather than needed one. The action of the Sub-Committee, though not popular, was supported by the Council.

A summary of the work carried out under this heading is as follows :-

HOUSING (cont'd).

Number of council houses constructed	32
Number of private houses constructed	28
Number of houses inspected for defects	124
Number of inspections made	319
Number of informal notices served	34
Number of statutory notices served :-	
(a) under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936,	-
(b) under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936,	-
(c) under Public Health Act, 1936,	6
Number of dwellings rendered fit	31

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has again been maintained, with disposal by means of controlled tipping at the rear of Forde Road, approximately 6,000 tons of refuse having been tipped.

A reorganisation of refuse collection rounds was carried out which enabled the requirements of the increased number of houses to be met without involving additional staff.

RODENT CONTROL:

Treatment of infested premises is carried out by methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, baiting and poisoning being carried out on a part-time basis by a member of this department. The services of the employee detailed for this work were not available during part of the year on account of prolonged illness and arrangements were made for another member of the staff to attend a training course given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The sewerage system of the town was again treated for infestation twice during the year.

Infestation was found at 67 premises and 213 visits paid.

STAFF:

The additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. Saunders, secured another appointment during the year and his place was taken by Mr. F. B. Elliott,

The Clerk, Miss Clark, resigned her post with the Council and Mr. G. Ingram was appointed to the position.

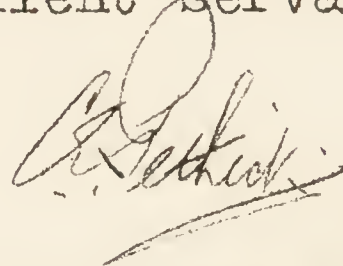
STAFF (cont'd).

Thanks are due to both new members of the staff for the assistance they have given with the duties of the department which continue to increase.

I also wish to record my appreciation of the support and consideration extended to me by members of the Council and to colleagues for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Pettkin', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

